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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
REVIEW OF MAINSTREAMING IN ORGANIZATIONS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Australia*, Canada* and New Zealand*: draft resolution

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6, in which the Council decided that the Commission on the Status of Women would have a catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes and would identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function,

Emphasizing the need for full implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001,

Welcoming the note by the Secretary-General on agreed conclusions 1996/1 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication,[1] in particular its emphasis on the

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/CN.6/1997/6.

mainstreaming of a gender perspective in United Nations activities for poverty eradication,

Having considered the question of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system and the statement in the report of the Secretary-General that comments from the Commission on the Status of Women on mainstreaming would provide valuable input into the preparation of the report requested for the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment in 1997,[2]

1. Reaffirms that mainstreaming a gender perspective is integral to the empowerment of women and to achieving gender equality;

2. Welcomes the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women,[3] which underscore the importance of implementing the commitments to mainstream a gender perspective by translating the concept into practical action and, in this regard, notes the steps involved in mainstreaming a gender perspective into programming and policy-making;[4]

3. Also welcomes the efforts to increase cooperation between the Division for the Advancement of Women and other parts of the United Nations system in such areas as peacekeeping and humanitarian affairs and the results already achieved with respect to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the World Food Summit;

4. Welcomes the initial sessions of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality and the importance of its work in regularly monitoring progress made in incorporating a gender perspective in institutional structures, policies and programming and in integrated Conference follow-up;

5. Stresses that particular attention should be paid to the need to intensify cooperation and coordination efforts to ensure that the equal status and human rights of all women and the girl child are integrated in United Nations system-wide activities, as well as to the means of achieving this, as noted in Commission on the Status of Women resolution 40/3 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/48 in particular, and in view of the critical areas of concern to be discussed by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session, the need to ensure that the reports of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences are brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women;

6. Reiterates the importance of inter-secretariat linkages such as the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for

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[2] E/CN.6/1997/2, para. 15.

[3] A/51/322 and E/CN.6/1997/2.

[4] See A/51/322, para. 14.

Human Rights and the need for this plan to be considered fully by the Commission on Human Rights;

7. Stresses the need for steps to be taken to integrate a gender perspective into human rights activities and programmes, bearing in mind the guidelines contained in the report of the expert group meeting on the development of guidelines for the integration of a gender perspective into human rights activities and programmes,[5] including reporting under international human rights instruments and mechanisms and in the preparations for the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[6] and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[7]

8. Requests the Secretariat, in the context of its review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women in 1998, to give specific attention to mainstreaming;

9. Recalls that the Committee for Programme and Coordination agreed to ensure, in its examination of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, that the mainstreaming of a gender perspective was reflected in the individual programmes of the medium-term plan;[8]

10. Emphasizes that the implementation of the Platform for Action requires the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and in this regard notes with appreciation the conclusion of the Inter-Agency Committee that mainstreaming is a responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole and of all staff in all policy and programme areas and in decision-making;

11. Encourages the Economic and Social Council:

(a) To assess the achievements made and obstacles encountered in mainstreaming a gender perspective at the intergovernmental level, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions and the functional commissions, in the United Nations system, including the Secretariat, and in all operational activities, including at the field level;

(b) To suggest practical tools and methodologies for monitoring regularly progress in mainstreaming, especially at senior levels, through, inter alia, performance indicators, mechanisms for accountability, impact analysis and identification of best practices;

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[5] E/CN.4/1996/105, annex.

[6] Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

[7] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[8] A/51/16 (Part I), para. 167.

(c) To stress the importance of strengthening expertise on gender issues generally and in specialized areas, through assessment of the impact of training;

(d) To stress the need to draw on the considerable experience and expertise which exists within the Division for the Advancement of Women and other gender units/focal points to provide advice and encourage efforts to develop and enhance cooperation and linkages between these units and other parts of the system, including within the Inter-Agency Committee, in order to broaden responsibility for the implementation of mainstreaming;

(e) To call upon United Nations departments and bodies, in the context of preparation of the programme budget for the period 1998-1999, to mainstream gender perspectives into their programmes in line with the recommendations of the Platform for Action, and to identify clearly those activities that are necessary to achieve that objective;

(f) To call for sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations, including resources for the Division for the Advancement of Women, in order to carry out all tasks foreseen in the Platform for Action, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/203;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution.